

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05520 061327Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /082 W

----- 031960

R 061229Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TI RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3768

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

COMSIXTHFLT

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TINIS 5520

ALSO FOR POLANDS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TS

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL REACTION TO U.S. EXPRESSIONS OF
GOODWILL ON BOURGUIBA'S BIRTHDAY

REF: TUNIS 5485 051300Z AUG 76

1. GOT CONTROLLED MEDIA THIS MORNING ISSUED EDITORIALS
OF ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED WARMTH IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION
FKR U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS OF GOOD WILL ON OCCASION OF
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S BIRTHDAY.

2. DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY
L'ACTION CONCENTRATED ON SENATE RESOLUTION, NOTING THAT
IT WAS PRESENTED BY SENATORS PERCY AND HUMPHREY , AND
STATING THAT IT WILL NOT FAIL TO REINFORCE FRIENDLY
COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS. THIS GOAL WILL BE ALL THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 05520 061327Z

MORE EASY, IT WENT ON, BECAUSE TUNISIA AND THE U.S.

SHARE THE SAME IDEALS AND OBJECTIVES OF PEACE AND HAVE AN EQUAL ATTACHMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AND STABILITY. EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH ASSURANCE THAT TUNISIA HAS NEVER DENIED ITS FRIENDS AND PROMISES TO JOIN WITH THEM IN DEFENDING IDEALS THEY SHARE. GOT-OWNED FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY LA PRESSE CALLED SENATE RESOLUTION AN EXAMPLE OF THE EFFICACIOUS AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT THAT AMERICANS GAVE TUNISIA IN INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, THE SUBSTANTIAL AID GIVEN FOR DEVELOPMENT, ALL THE SIGNS OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT IN DIFFICULT TIMES. LA PRESSE ALSO CALLED TO MIND VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT TO TUNISIA FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE AND NOTED THAT WASHINGTON HAS ALWAYS EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP FOR TUNISIA. LA PRESSE TOOK NOTE AS WELL OF FRENCH EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT ON BOURGUIBA'S BIRTHDAY, BUT USG CLEARLY STOLE THE SHOW, JUDGING FROM THE EDITORIAL TREATMENT.

3. ARABIC-LANGUAGE PRESS WAS EQUALLY GENEROUS IN ITS EDITORIAL PRAISE FOR SENATE RESOLUTION. PSD DAILY AL AMAL SAID IT WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY UNUSUAL RESOLUTION AND TOOK IT AS EXPRESSION OF USG DETERMINATION TO COOPERATE IN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FIELDS WITH TUNISIA IN ORDER TO HELP TUNISIAN APPROACH SUCCEED. AL AMAL SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION MEANS THAT INTENTION EXISTS TO ENABLE TUNISIA TO CONTINUE EXPERIMENT AND TO SPARE ITS DISTRACTIONS CREATED BY OTHERS TO FOIL PLANS AND PROGRAMS. IT CLOSED WITH NOTE THAT RESOLUTION REKINDLES TUNISIAN VIGILANCE TO DEFEND ITS GAINS. SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILY AS SABAH DESCRIBED RESOLUTION AS INDICATIVE OF RENEWED U.S. SYMPATHY FOR TUNISIA AS A MODEL STATE FOR THE THIRD WORLD AND SHOWED U.S. DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT. ARABIC-LANGUAGE TV NEWS ADDED LENGTHY COMMENTARY TO REPORT ON SENATE RESOLUTION WHICH NOTED ITS IMPORTANCE AS AN INDICATION OF USG SUPPORT FOR TUNISIA.

4. COMMENT: GOT HAS EVIDENTLY CHOSEN TO CAST ASIDE ITS NORMAL PUBLIC RESERVE CONCERNING CLOSE, FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE USG. PRESS COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL TREATMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 05520 061327Z

LEAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT WHO GOT BELIEVES ITS TRUEST FRIENDS TO BE. PRO FORMA MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS TO BOURGUIBA FROM COMMUNIST BLOC AND THIRD WORLD STATES WERE BURIED IN ROUTINE ACCOUNTS. SUBSTANTIAL FRENCH CONTRIBUTION (THREE NAVAL VESSELS IN TUNIS FOR AUGUST 3, AN AERIAL DEMONSTRATION BY MIRAGES, AND A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING) GOT SECOND BILLING TO U.S. ACTIONS. PRESENCE OF GREEK AND EGYPTIAN NAVAL VESSELS WAS TUCKED

IN WITH RESS ACCOUNTS OF U.S. AND FRENCH SHIPS.
KING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS05520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760303-0956
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760876/aaaacokf.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TUNIS 5485
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL REACTION TO U.S. EXPRESSIONS OF GOODWILL ON BOURGUIBA'S BIRTHDAY
TAGS: PFOR, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006